



PATENT APPLICATION  
Attorney's Do. No. 3302-101

446  
S.Y.  
128-98

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

GEOFFREY B. RHOADS

Serial No. 08/746,613

Filed: November 12, 1996

Group Art Unit: 2606

For: COMPUTER SYSTEM LINKED BY USING  
INFORMATION IN DATA OBJECTS

BOX DD  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS  
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TRADEMARKS, 2900 CRYSTAL DRIVE,  
ARLINGTON, VA 22202-3513

ON: 16 Dec 1997  
Alexander C. Johnson

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

The above-referenced application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 08/649,419, filed May 16, 1996 and of U.S. Serial No. 08/508,083, filed July 27, 1995.

It is understood that the listed references will be considered in the examination of the application and that no separate copies of the same prior art are required to be provided since they were previously cited or transmitted in the foregoing prior application. 37 CFR Section 1.98(d). Copies of forms 892 and 1449 from 08/508,083 are enclosed, along with unmarked forms 1449 listing those same references.

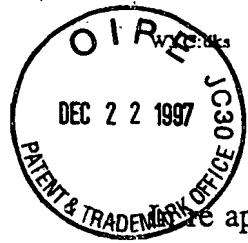
Respectfully submitted,

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By

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6/12/96 4830-43223c.ids

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

the application of

Geoffrey B. Rhoads

Serial No. 08/508,083

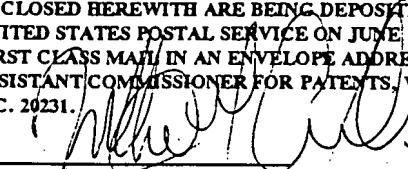
Filed: July 27, 1995

For: NETWORK LINKING METHOD  
USING INFORMATION  
EMBEDDED IN DATA  
OBJECTS THAT HAVE  
INHERENT NOISE

Art Unit 2613

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER AND THE DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO AS BEING ATTACHED OR ENCLOSED HEREWITH ARE BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE ON JUNE 13, 1996 AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231.

  
William Y. Cowell  
Attorney for Applicant

Examiner:

Date: June 13, 1996

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to his continuing duty of disclosure, applicant calls to the attention of the Examiner the art listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and enclosed herewith and the items discussed below.

The cited article was published after the present application's filing date. However, it describes a software program (Sandford and Handel's BMPEMBED) that was reportedly reduced to practice in May, 1994. Such software should be considered as § 102(g) art (unless/until subsequently-learned facts show otherwise). *Accordingly, the Office is requested to consider the contents of this paper as a written description of 102(g) art.*

The paper credits Milton Wyrick for "schooling us in the importance and methods of patenting software" (p. 256). The undersigned located Mr. Wyrick's telephone

number from the PTO's *Attorneys and Agents Registered to Practice Before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office*, and called to inquire about patent applications filed by Drs. Sandford et al. On May 9, 1996, Mr. Wyrick reported that Sandford et al had filed three applications. He provided details about the first two:

- DATA EMBEDDING, S/N 08/392,642, filed February 23, 1995
- COMPRESSION EMBEDDING, S/N 08/442,592, filed May 17, 1995

Mr. Wyrick did not have, available, citation information for the third application. He reported it was a CIP of the first application, with only "minor" new matter.

Mr. Wyrick granted permission for these applications to be called to the attention of the Examiner handling the present application.

Mr. Wyrick reported the first application is directed to the subject matter disclosed in the cited article. The second application is directed to improvements which make the technology more robust to lossy compression/decompression. (The technology disclosed in the cited paper apparently didn't work well with compression.) The third application is directed to extensions of the technology for use with TrueColor images.

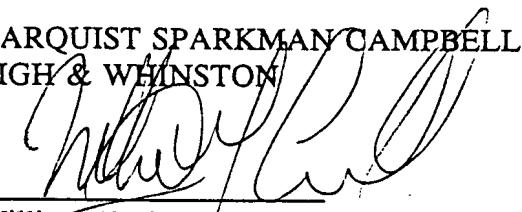
The Office is requested to consider these copending applications as provisional § 102(e) prior art.

The undersigned understands that it is Office policy not to list copending applications among references cited on the cover of a patent (else the secrecy of the applications would be unduly compromised). Accordingly, these citations are not listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Nonetheless, appropriate consideration of these copending applications is solicited.

Applicant certifies that no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing the certificate after making careful inquiry, was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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